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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/745,028	12/20/2000	Prasad V. Prabhu	80998DMW	8136

7590 01/30/2004

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EXAMINER

SAX, STEVEN PAUL

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2174	8

DATE MAILED: 01/30/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.
09/745,028

Applicant(s)
Prabhu

Examiner
Steve Sax

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11/7/03.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
*See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). _____ 6) ☐ Other:

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DETAILED ACTION

1. This application has been examined.
2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.
3. Claims 1-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shen et al (6545660) and Satoh et al (6675197).
4. Regarding claim 1, Shen et al show a method via a graphical user interface (Figures 3, 16, column 2 lines 21-32) of annotating picture information for pictures in a picture database (Column 2 lines 21-27, column 3 lines 55-65), comprising: generating a user friendly display with picture indicia (Figures 3, 6, column 4 lines 39-57), in response to on screen user input, identifying a plurality of pictures as belonging to a group (column 3 lines 38-45, column 4 lines 40-55), and accepting metadata input on screen by the user, characterizing the group of pictures (column 4 lines 12-24 and 40-55). Shen et al do not specifically go into the details of the single information entry area accepting and containing (inputted) information about the group, but do

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mention efficient user access to a grouping on a display. Furthermore, this is a common feature to user interfaces, as in Satoh et al for example. See in Satoh et al: a single entry area accepting and containing (inputted) information about a group of data items (area 55 of Figure 5, the focused in group information area shown in Figure 6, column 11 lines 12-55). This is done for efficient user access to a grouping on a display. It would have been obvious to a person with ordinary skill in the art to have this in Shen et al, because it would allow efficient user access to a grouping on a display.

5. Regarding claim 2, the metadata includes social information (Shen et al column 3 lines 57-60, column 4 lines 40-45, column 5 lines 20-27).

6. Regarding claim 3, the social information includes an event that the group of pictures records (Shen et al column 5 lines 20-29).

7. Regarding claim 4, the social information includes temporal aspects of the group of pictures with respect to capture (Shen et al column 4 lines 55-60).

8. Regarding claim 5, the social information includes capture location aspects of the group of pictures (Shen et al column 5 lines 35-40).

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9. Regarding claim 6, the social information includes people recorded in the group of pictures (Shen et al column 4 lines 40-46).
10. Regarding claim 7, the social information includes objects recorded in the group of pictures (Shen et al Figure 16, column 5 lines 40-45).
11. Regarding claim 8, the social information includes user provided comments (Shen et al column 3 lines 49-52).
12. Claims 9-16 show the same features as claims 1-8 and are rejected for the same reasons.
13. Applicant's arguments with respect to the claims have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.
14. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after

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the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

15. Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to Steve Sax at telephone number (703) 305-9582.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Steve Sax whose telephone number is (703) 305-9582. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday from 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM.

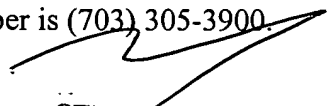
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kristine Kincaid, can be reached on (703) 308-0640.

The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are as follows:

(703)872-9306

Official Communication

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.


STEVE SAX
PRIMARY EXAMINER